



BEARS STUMBLE TO 2ND PLACE

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Obama motorcade,
do not do this **8**

In documentary,
Madonna is no
Material Girl **28**

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31 fun things
to close out
the year **19**

SHE'S BACK

Who says making up is hard to do?
How Obama's choice of Clinton to head
State Department changes game **6-7**



Monday
DECEMBER 1, 2008

redeyechicago.com

A Chicago Tribune
publication

★ **FREE** ★

GETTY IMAGES FILE

2do

To save

If you didn't get enough shopping done on Black Friday, check out the Cyber Monday sale at **shop sheboutique.com**, where everything is 40 percent off.

To win

Drop by Starbucks (55 E. Jackson Blvd.) from 6 to 10 a.m. Monday to see Swany from WTMX (101.9-FM) broadcasting live and handing out a pair of front-row tickets to the Miracle on State Street concert every half-hour.

To exercise

Push your workout to the limits with spin classes that incorporate oxygen inhalation to help exercisers feeling out of breath from 6:15 to 7 p.m. Mondays in December at Crunch (939 W. North Ave.). \$16.

To manage

Stop spending time checking all your bank accounts and credit card receipts to find out how much you can spend and use **mint.com**, which automatically downloads and graphs your finances daily and suggests ways for you to save.

» **mint.com** can help keep track of your money

txtable



Aye, aye caption

Text us a funny caption for the photo above and we'll print the best in Tuesday's RedEye. To give it a shot text the word "caption" followed by your brief caption and your name to **47383**. Good luck!

WEDNESDAY'S WINNER:

"Here I come to save the daaaaay!"

—J.R. SMITH



RANDOM DILEMMA

We asked. You responded. Here are the results from last Wednesday's Random Dilemma, in which we asked if you would rather go drinking with Homer Simpson or go drinking with Peter Griffin.

43%

Go drinking with Homer Simpson

57%

Go drinking with Peter Griffin

Here's another: Which would you rather do? Text "random" and the number of your response to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.

Relive high school (1) OR Go back to work at your worst job ever (2)



33 18

TODAY'S FORECAST

The snow will trail off in the afternoon.



TUE.
35
33

Breezy and cloudy



WED.
37
22

Rain or snow coming



THU.
28
17

Cold, but no snow



FRI.
31
24

More of the same

Look Your Thinnest for the Holidays!

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Discover a Nu U for the Holidays!

Online travel sites seeing less vacationers

Chicago Tribune

Not only are Americans flying less as the economy tanks, but also they're spending less time scouting the Internet for travel deals, creating an unprecedented drop in traffic for online travel agencies like Chicago-based Orbitz.

As days shorten and the air chills, consumers typically start to plan winter getaways, making October one of the busiest months of the year for Internet travel sites, analysts said.

Not this year. As consumer confidence reached historic lows in October, the volume of visitors to Web travel portals declined 14 percent, year over year, to 38.2 million, according to ComScore, a market research firm that tracks Internet traffic. Web traffic fell for nearly every major airline site.

Hardest hit were the three online powerhouses that have dominated bookings for much of this decade. Web traffic at Expedia sites plunged 25 percent, to 18.2 million visitors, while **travelocity.com** and Orbitz saw 16 percent and 23 percent drops, respectively.

The falloff in traffic was unparalleled for the three online agencies, which grew by leaps and bounds during the economic slowdown that followed the Sept. 11 attacks as many consumers for the first time turned to the Internet to unearth bargains.

Anticipating tougher times ahead, Orbitz last month announced plans to reduce its U.S. workforce by 10 percent by the end of the year.

It's the latest sign of new woes bewildering the travel industry. After dodging the effects of sky-high fuel prices during the first half of the year, airlines, hotels, rental car companies and tour operators are struggling with a steep and sudden drop-off in demand from both corporate and leisure travelers.

"What's happening in 2008 is a universal buckling down," said Sara Stevens, a vice president and head of the travel and retail practices for Virginia-based ComScore.



What's happening in 2008 is a universal buckling down."

SARA STEVENS

a vice president and head of the travel and retail practices for a market research firm that tracks Internet traffic.

Damyanti Bhen (center) sobs on Sunday after viewing Nariman House, the site of her son's death last week in the Mumbai attacks. AP

BEHIND THE BLOODSHED

INDIAN POLICE IMPLICATE PAKISTANI MILITANT GROUP

Associated Press

MUMBAI The only gunman captured by police after a string of attacks on Mumbai told authorities he belonged to the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, a senior police officer said Sunday.

Police have said 10 gunmen terrorized Mumbai during a 60-hour siege, and all but one were shot dead. Joint Police Commissioner Rakesh Maria said the assailant now in custody told police the group had intended to hit more targets during their attacks on India's financial capital that left at least 174 dead and about 240 injured.

The rampage began Wednesday and ended Saturday. Among the foreigners killed were six Americans.

Lashkar-e-Taiba has long been seen as a creation of the Pakistani intelligence service to help wage its clandestine war against India in disputed Kashmir.

INSIDE CHICAGO MAN DIES IN MUMBAI ATTACKS page 9

Police arrested the lone surviving militant, Ajmal Qasab, and Maria said he confessed his links to

Lashkar during interrogation.

"Ajmal Qasab has received training in a L-e-T training camp in Pakistan," he said. "Our interrogation indicates that the terrorists had other places that they also intended to target."

Maria declined to offer any other details.

Earlier, a U.S. counterterrorism official had said some "signatures of the attack" were consistent with Lashkar and Jaish-e-Mohammed, another group that has operated in Kashmir. Both are reported to be linked to Al Qaeda.

Lashkar was banned in Pakistan in 2002 under pressure from the U.S., a year after Washington and Britain listed it as a terrorist group. The Pakistani government offered no immediate response.

Instant messages

When gunmen started spraying Mumbai with bullets and seizing the city's landmarks, countless people around the globe turned not to the TV or the radio for news, but to each other.

Sites like Twitter and Flickr buzzed with eyewitness accounts from India's financial capital, providing some of the first photos of the besieged targets and serving as a forum for pleas for updates on friends and family.

Photos posted on Flickr just 90 minutes after the attacks had been viewed at least 110,000 times by Sunday.

Twitter users, who simply tagged their comments "mumbai," traded information at a rate of 50-100 posts a minute in messages that were sometimes wrong, often fragmented, but always instant. A Google map of the targets was created hours after the violence began and had received 375,000 hits as of Sunday. AP

BUSH OFFERS SUPPORT

President Bush assured Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Sunday that the U.S. government will put its full weight behind the investigation into the attacks, a White House spokesman said.

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SIGHTINGS

» Samantha Ronson dined at Hub 51 on Wednesday night and Fall Out Boy's Joe Trohman dined there Friday night. » Patrick Swayze ordered in Thanksgiving dinner in a swanky downtown hotel, according to a source. Friday, he was spotted walking his two dogs on Kinzie Street. » "The Hills" star Justin Bobby made an appearance at Manor on Friday. » Playboy Playmates Kelly Carrington, Kayla Collins and Monica Leigh hosted a party at Lumen on Saturday night.



Ronson
 BARRY BRECHEISEN
 FILE FOR REDEYE

SamRo spins solo

Black Wednesday was a cloudy one for Samantha Ronson, who came to Chicago for her regular gig spinning at Crimson Lounge without her gal pal, Lindsay Lohan.

Lohan rarely fails to make the trip with Ronson, but this time she was a no-show. The DJ arrived in Chicago and had problems with her car service, so she ended up taking a cab to her hotel.

Later that night, I'm told, her cell phone broke. Ronson tried to resurrect it, but didn't have any luck. The drama weighed on Ronson, eyewitnesses said, and might have kept her from getting in contact with Lohan.

The truth about 'Let It Rock'

Kevin Rudolf performed his hit song "Let It Rock" on Friday night at Enclave. My intern Kristen Lepore interviewed him at the club before he took the stage.

You got into music at a young age and have been playing the guitar for a long time. What musicians inspired you growing up?

I started listening to other guitar players like Jimmy Page, Eddie Van Halen, Jimi Hendrix. You know, the guitar greats.

I've heard you are working with Lindsay Lohan on her new album. Is this true?

I don't know what's going to happen with that. Someone wrote to me on the Internet and then it got blown up into something else. If it happens, it happens. But it's not something I am or am not pursuing.

Who has been your favorite artist to work with?

I've learned a lot of different things from Timbaland as far as production goes and learned a lot from Lil Wayne about work ethic.

How is your hit "Let It Rock" personal to you?

It's personal because it's just calling out everyone in the verses and it's about hypocrisy. I'm calling out everyone who is fake, and I'm bringing truth and that's what it's about.



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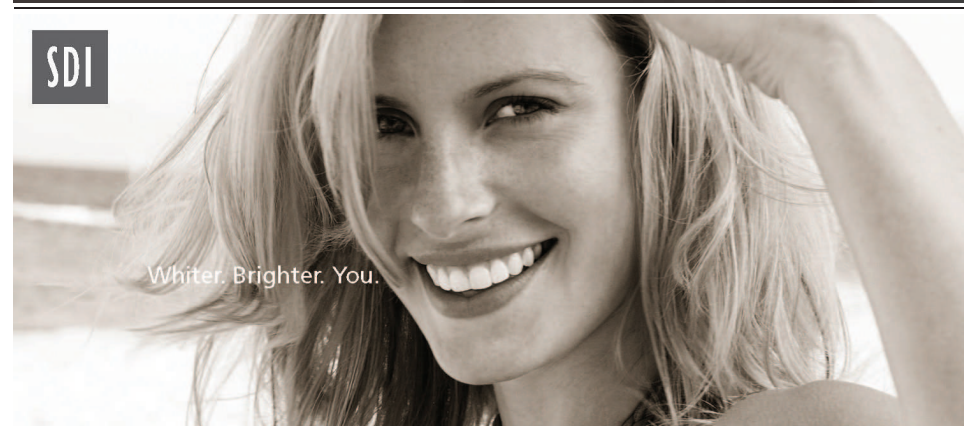
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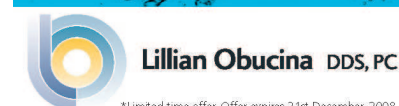
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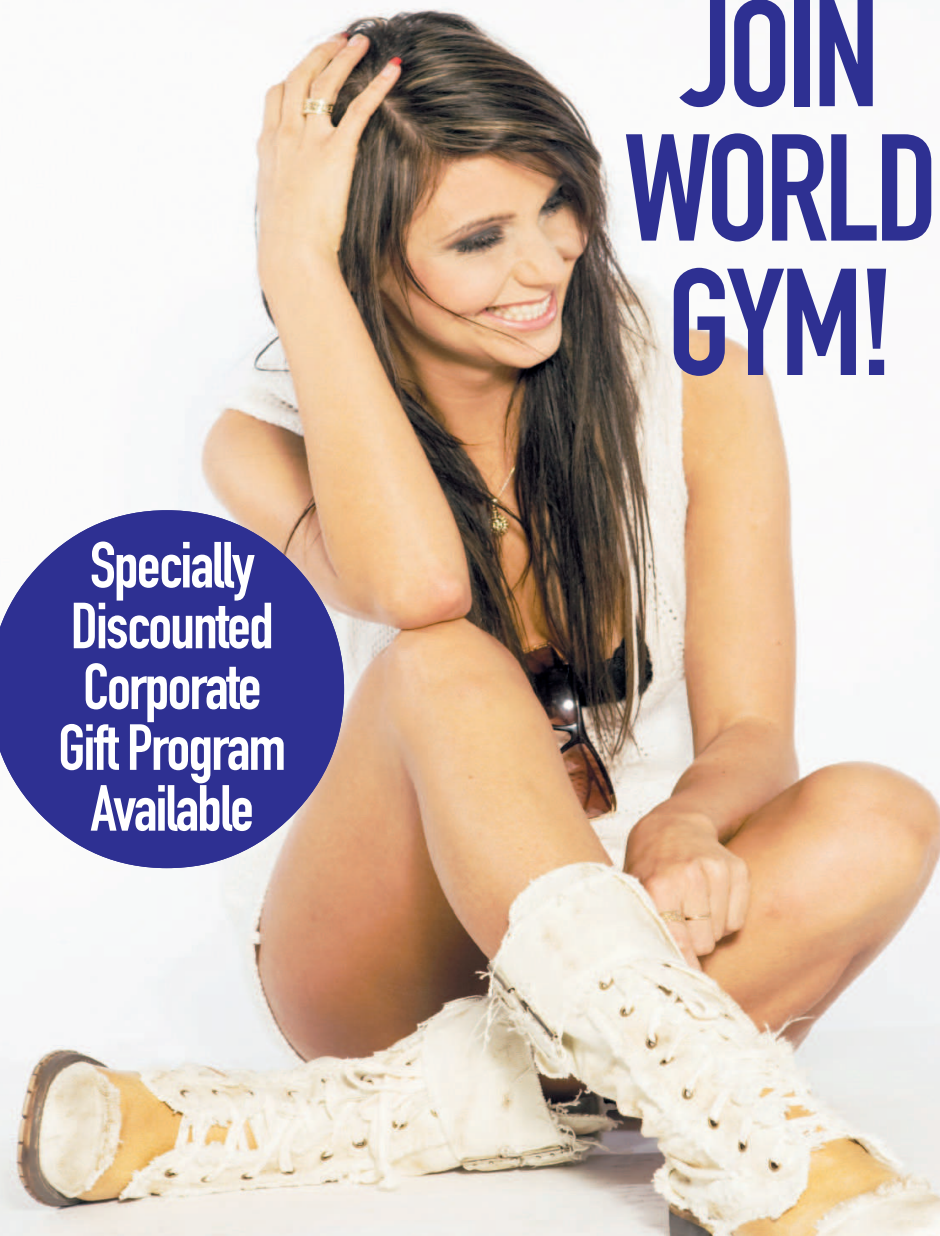
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Well, I didn't mean it like that ...

It wasn't too long ago that Barack Obama and his advisers were tripping over one another to tear down Hillary Clinton's foreign policy credentials. She was dismissed as a commander in chief wannabe who did little more than sip tea and make small talk with foreign leaders during her days as first lady.

Now, Clinton is on track to become Obama's secretary of state.

Certainly a lot of that acrimony can be chalked up to the win-at-all-costs nature of the campaign, but the Obama camp might want to think about revising a few quotes made when Obama and Clinton had their eyes on the same prize. **AP, REDEYE CONTRIBUTED.**

THEN

“What exactly is this foreign policy experience? Was she negotiating treaties? Was she handling crises? The answer is no.”

— *Barack Obama*

“She did not sit in on any National Security Council meetings when she was first lady.”

“There is no reason to believe ... that she was a key player in foreign policy at any time during the Clinton administration.”

— *Greg Craig, Obama's choice for White House counsel*

“There is no crisis to be dealt with or managed when you are first lady. You don't get that kind of experience by being married to a commander in chief.”

— *Susan Rice, Obama's likely selection for U.N. ambassador*

NOW

“[Clinton is] a tremendous addition to this administration. Tremendous.”

— *William Daley, adviser to Obama*

“[She's a] demonstrably able, tough, brilliant person.”

— *David Axelrod, senior adviser to Obama*

Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton attend a campaign rally together in October. According to sources, Obama is expected to name Clinton as his choice for secretary of state.

GETTY IMAGES FILE



WHY CAN'T WE BE FRIENDS?

Former rivals Clinton, Obama playing for same team—thanks to maneuvering by Bill

Associated Press

It seems the world's worst-kept secret will formally be revealed on Monday, the day Hillary Clinton is expected to be introduced as President-elect Obama's choice for secretary of state.

A deal with Clinton's husband, Bill Clinton, over his post-White House work helped clear the way for her to join Obama's national security team, reshaping a once-bitter rivalry into a high-profile strategic and diplomatic union.

Obama's choice of Hillary Clinton was an extraordinary gesture of goodwill after a year in which the two rivals competed for the Democratic nomination in a long, bitter primary battle.

They clashed repeatedly on foreign affairs. Obama criticized Clinton for her vote to authorize the Iraq war. Clinton said Obama lacked the experience to be president, and she chided him for saying he would meet with leaders of nations such as Iran and Cuba without conditions.

The bitterness began melting away in June after Clinton ended her campaign and endorsed Obama. She went on to campaign for him in his general election contest against Republican Sen. John McCain.

Advisers said Obama had for several months envisioned Clinton as his top diplomat, and he invited her to Chicago to discuss the job just a week after the Nov. 4 election. The two met privately Nov. 13 in Obama's transition office downtown.

Clinton was said to be interested and then to waver, concerned about relinquishing her Senate seat and the political independence it conferred. Those concerns were largely

resolved after Obama assured her she would be able to choose a staff and have direct access to him, advisers said.

Obama is to be joined by the New York senator at a Chicago news conference Monday, Democratic officials said, when he also planned to announce that Defense Secretary Robert Gates would remain in his job for a year or more. The officials requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

To make it possible for his wife to become the top U.S. diplomat, the officials said, former President Clinton agreed:

» To disclose the names of every contributor to his foundation since its inception in 1997 and all contributors going forward.

» To refuse donations from foreign governments to the Clinton Global Initiative, his annual charitable conference.

» To cease holding CGI meetings overseas.

» To volunteer to step away from day-to-day management of the foundation while his wife is secretary of state.

» To submit his speaking schedule to review by the State Department and White House counsel.

» To submit any new sources of income to a similar ethical review.

Bill Clinton's business deals and global charitable endeavors had been expected to create problems. But in negotiations with the Obama transition team, the former president agreed to measures designed to bring transparency to those activities.

"It's a big step," said Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who said he plans to vote to confirm Clinton.

The former president long had refused to disclose the identities of contributors to his foundation, saying many gave money on condition that they not be identified.

Lugar said there still would be "legitimate questions" raised about the

MONDAY'S APPOINTMENTS

President-elect Obama also is expected to announce...

» Washington lawyer Eric Holder as attorney general.

» Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano as homeland security secretary.

» Campaign foreign policy adviser Susan Rice as U.N. ambassador.

» Retired Marine General James L. Jones as national security adviser.

former president's extensive international involvement. "I don't know how, given all of our ethics standards now, anyone quite measures up to this who has such cosmic ties, but ... hopefully, this team of rivals will work," Lugar said.

Some Democrats and government insiders have questioned whether Clinton is too independent and politically ambitious to serve Obama as secretary of state. But a senior Obama adviser has said the president-elect had been enthusiastic about naming Clinton to the position from the start, believing she would bring instant stature and credibility to U.S. diplomatic relations and the advantages to her serving far outweigh potential downsides.

Clinton "is known throughout the world, very smart, a little harder line than Senator Obama took during the campaign," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a close McCain friend and adviser who is on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, said the Clintons will have to tread carefully to avoid the appearance of conflicts.

"The presumption will be that both Secretary of State Clinton and former President Clinton will be very judicious in what they take on because there's a new dimension here," Reed said. "I think they've put up a good framework. This disclosure, this transparency is the right way to go."

fakebook

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What your Facebook profile would look like ... if you had cooler and more powerful friends. On Monday, RedEye took a crack at Hillary Clinton's "Fakebook" profile.

News Feed Status Updates Photos



Bill Clinton is researching a potential diplomatic mission to France's nude beaches. Giggity!

3 minutes ago — Comment



The U.S. State Department became a fan of Hillary Clinton.

9 minutes ago — Comment



The U.S. State Department is no longer friends with Condoleezza Rice.

10 minutes ago — Comment



Hillary Clinton is stepping off the plane in Bosnia right now, and it's snipers as far as the eye can see.

18 minutes ago — Comment



David Letterman has started the group Worldwide Pantsuit Jokes.

24 minutes ago — Comment



John McCain wrote on **Hillary Clinton's** wall:

"That job was supposed to be MINE! And it was my excuse to get out of turkey dinner with the Palins! You'll pay for this, Clinton. Oh, you will pay."

35 minutes ago — Comment



Hillary Clinton sent **Barack Obama** a Fist Bump.

38 minutes ago — Comment



Barack Obama sent **Hillary Clinton** a BFF Locket.

45 minutes ago — Comment



TWITTER POLITICS

We asked RedEye's Twitter followers what Hillary's first act as secretary of state should be. Here are a few responses. Join our Twitter Cabinet at twitter.com/redeyechicago.

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Bring the troops home sooner and work on changing our worldly image.

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To make sure there are plenty of Interns available for when Bill comes to visit the White House...

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prank phone calls at 3am

@drinkbourbon

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chicago

Taxi strike causes no problems

Chicago Tribune

Thousands of holiday travelers leaving O'Hare found plenty of cabs waiting in line outside the airport Sunday, despite the decision of some drivers to strike that afternoon in protest of current fare rates.

Taxi driver advocacy group United Taxidivers Community Council said drivers want a 16 percent fare raise by Jan. 1. The council said most drivers work 12-hour days and make less than minimum wage even though living expenses continue to rise.

Not all of the city's approximately 15,000 drivers belong to the group, and some other taxi groups opposed the group's call for a strike. The Chicago Professional Taxicab Drivers Association said its members would not strike in fear of angering customers during a troubled economy.

Fayez Khozindar, United Taxidivers' chairman, said Sunday that drivers for the strike also want fares to be revised every two years.

"We're sending a message to the city. We're not trying to inconvenience the public," Khozindar said of striking. Khozindar said he believes about 3,500 drivers stayed home Sunday. United Taxidivers organizers said they are considering another strike in the next 10 days—or perhaps on New Year's Eve.

But that may not be enough to make the impact organizers had hoped. At O'Hare on Sunday afternoon, cabs kept coming in a steady stream, and travelers had short wait times. Workers flagging down cabs said they did not notice fewer cabs than usual.

Neither did O'Hare traveler Jacqueline Dispoto, a marketing executive based in Alaska who comes to Chicago about 10 times a year. She said she thinks the \$45 she typically spends on a ride from O'Hare to the Loop, including tip, is reasonable compared with prices in New York and L.A. Dispoto said it's easy to understand why many drivers, even if they want to increase fares, didn't skip work on a holiday weekend.

"There's a lot of money to be made today," she said.



President-elect Obama's motorcade heads downtown. ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/TRIBUNE

Not another delay!

Not construction or weather-related—the Obama kind

Chicago Tribune

Chicago drivers are adjusting to a new reality since the election: Wherever President-elect Obama goes, traffic disruptions follow.

Traffic tie-ups also precede his high-security escort from his home in Kenwood to federal offices in the Loop and anywhere else the soon-to-be commander-in-chief may travel, even to nosh on a corned beef sandwich at a deli.

Some drivers are quicker than others when it comes to learning that the absolute worst time for a motorist to appear impatient, menacing, curious or even plain stupid is when the presidential motorcade is passing by.

A few incidents have occurred in which Chicago drivers failed to yield properly to Obama's heavily armed caravan of Secret Service and Chicago police black SUVs and other vehicles ablaze in flashing lights.

It can lead to trouble. And offenders should not count on receiving a presidential pardon.

On Saturday night, the motorcade carrying the president-elect, his wife, Michelle, and a friend, Marty Nesbitt, was headed

north on Lake Shore Drive en route to dinner at Frontera Grill on Clark Street downtown.

A car pulled alongside the convoy just south of McCormick Place, according to a pool report filed by a news reporter assigned to the Obamas. A Chicago police squad car quickly intercepted the vehicle and pulled the sedan to the side of the road.

It wasn't known whether the driver was ticketed. But the incident serves as a warning that invading what officials consider presidential personal space could be dangerous.

"The security of the motorcade is paramount for us, so drivers should take these suggestions to heart: Slow down and avoid aggressive maneuvers, such as not acting courteously and attempting to get close to the vehicles and gawk," said Secret Service spokesman Eric Zahren in Washington. "The challenge that driving in an aggressive manner poses to us is that we don't know if it is intentional or just curiosity."

In fact, the need for drivers to show deference to the presidential motorcade is more of an issue in Chicago than it is in Washington. That's because in the nation's capital, streets are completely cordoned off for the presidential motorcade, officials said. When asked

SMOOTH SAILING

Clearly, Obama makes good time when he commutes around the city, despite Chicago's status as No. 2 in the nation for traffic congestion.

After attending a birthday party on Nov. 14 in the Gold Coast, the motorcade whisked the Obamas home in 16 minutes.

The quick trip was possible in part because police temporarily halted southbound traffic on Lake Shore Drive to allow the motorcade to pass, as some drivers honked their horns at the entourage.

It also helped that the motorcade doesn't stop for red lights—for security reasons, of course.

how the Chicago Police Department is balancing Obama's security with the interests of drivers, police spokeswoman Monique Bond said drivers must adjust.

So drivers, take a deep breath. Also, definitely don't point a camera or anything else that could be interpreted as a possible weapon.

And always remember why the windows are open in the security vehicles leading and tailing the president's car: To give the sharpshooters inside a clean shot.

Chicago man killed in Mumbai

A Chicago man was among those killed in the Mumbai terrorist attacks, family members and the head of his Wisconsin-based company confirmed Sunday.

Sandeep “Sam” Jeswani, 43, whose family moved to Chicago from India when he was 12, was among those killed at the Oberoi Hotel when gunmen opened fire on Wednesday, according to the wife of a cousin, Nita Santwani, of Fairport, N.Y.

Jeswani’s wife said Sunday that her husband

was killed, but that she and other family members in Chicago were grieving and would have no comment about the attack.

Frederick Robertson, chief executive officer of TomoTherapy of Madison, Wis., also on Sunday confirmed Jeswani’s death and said that Jeswani was an employee. He had been in India on business, the CEO said. But citing the wishes of Jeswani’s wife, Robertson declined further comment.

Jeswani, a naturalized U.S. citizen, was with

a group of five other people eating at the hotel when the gunmen began shooting, according to Santwani. Four others from the group also were killed, she said.

“It’s a shock to the whole family,” Santwani said.

The U.S. State Department would not confirm whether Jeswani was among the Americans killed in the attacks, saying it would not release the names of U.S. citizens killed or injured.

5 critically injured in Lower Wacker crash

Five people, including a child, were in serious-to-critical condition Sunday night when the car they were traveling in crashed into a pillar on Lower Wacker Drive near Columbus Drive, fire officials said. The car, a Ford Crown Victoria, was traveling at a high rate of speed when it crashed into the pillar, officials said. Five ambulances responded to the scene at about 7:20 p.m.

Driver crashes into building

The driver of a car crashed into a North Side building Sunday morning, hitting a gas meter and prompting a hazardous materials response by fire officials, according to Fire Media Affairs spokesman Joe Roccasalva. The driver was hospitalized in serious condition after crashing into the building in the 3300 block of West Peterson Avenue about 10:40 a.m., Roccasalva said. The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Woman cited in deadly accident

Multiple citations have been issued to a Chicago woman in relation to a hit-and-run accident that killed a 71-year-old South Side man Sunday, police said. Veronica Rangel, 33 of the 5200 block of South Washtenaw Avenue, was cited for five violations. Police said Marcos Rocha was crossing the street between two parked cars in front of his home in the 5700 block of South California Avenue in Gage Park when he was struck by a white 2002 Ford pickup truck heading southbound on California.

Blagojevich to attend national meeting

Gov. Blagojevich says he’ll travel to Philadelphia this week to join his peers at a meeting of the National Governors Association. President-elect Obama and Vice President-elect Biden are expected to speak to the group there Tuesday. Blagojevich says he wants to use the meeting with Obama to discuss how the federal government can help address state budget shortfalls.

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How would you like to climb off the “L” and into a sponsored station? It could happen. The CTA is negotiating with possible corporate sponsors for naming rights at some stops to boost revenue.

RedEye “Going Public” columnist Kyra Kyles couldn’t help dreaming up her own list of advertisers who could seek a stake in certain stops.

» **Rosemont:** 1-800-flowers.com, anyone? If the gurus of gift baskets meld with the minds of mass transit, the result could be rose-colored.

» **Noyes:** How about a plug—literally—for Niles-based Shure? The manufacturer of sound-isolating stereo headsets and other gadgets could get a lot of business from CTA riders sick of noise on buses and trains.

» **Armitage:** What better sponsor for a spot known for people-watching and potential hookups than match.com?

» **Jackson:** It’s a stretch, but maybe the prince of Bahrain could throw some Benjamins at the Jackson stop. Sheik Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa already spent a reported \$7 million on Michael Jackson, sparking a legal dispute he and the pop star settled last month over a planned music project that fell apart.

» **California:** How about a new way to market dried grapes without bringing back those singing raisins? Name the Blue, Green and Pink California stops after the California Raisin Marketing Board.

» **Paulina:** We’re not proposing a bar car for the “L,” but St. Pauli Girl could bring some fun to this Brown Line stop. The CTA could rechristen the stop St. Paulina.



An overnight parking ban will be enforced on a number of Chicago's key arterial streets over the winter.
SCOTT STRAZZANTE/TRIBUNE

Snow or no, overnight parking ban in effect

The City of Chicago will begin to enforce its seasonal Winter Overnight Parking Ban at 3 a.m. Monday for a number of key arterial city streets.

Motorists should pay attention to the 2-inch snow restrictions that, although they are technically enforced throughout the year, are a factor during the winter months, according to a news release from the city’s Department of Streets and Sanitation.

“We depend on our residents with cars to help us keep these critical roadways open to full capacity by obeying our winter parking regulations,” Streets and Sanitation Commissioner Michael Picardi said in the release. “Working together will help to ensure that we all make it through winter safely.”

But regardless of snow, the ban will be enforced from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. between Monday and April 1.

Ignoring the signs can cost a violator a minimum \$150 towing fee, a \$50 ticket and a daily storage fee of \$10 that will increase over time.

A separate parking ban could be put into place in the event of heavy snowfall, the department said.

Both bans will be indicated on permanently posted signs along the designated routes.

Meanwhile, snow and a mix of snow and rain made for a messy end to the holiday weekend Sunday, with aviation officials reporting flight delays of up to an hour along with several cancellations at O’Hare.

While up to 6 inches was forecast in some parts of the area, a quick survey of RedEye’s Twitter followers late Sunday showed little more than slush in and around the city to a couple of inches in Elgin.

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and Special Purchase

Poor grades for high school ethics

In the past year, 30 percent of U.S. high school students have stolen from a store and 64 percent have cheated on a test, according to a new, large-scale survey suggesting that Americans are too apathetic about ethical standards.

Educators reacting to the findings questioned any suggestion that today's young people are less honest than previous generations, but several agreed that intensified pressures are prompting many students to cut corners.

"The competition is greater, the

pressures on kids have increased dramatically," said Mel Riddle of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. "They have opportunities their predecessors didn't have (to cheat). The temptation is greater."

The Josephson Institute, a Los Angeles-based ethics institute, surveyed 29,760 students at 100 randomly selected high schools nationwide, both public and private. All students in the selected schools were given the survey in class; their anonymity was assured.

CHEATING ON THE RISE

Other findings from the survey:

» Cheating in school is rampant and getting worse. **Sixty-four percent** of students cheated on a test in the past year and 38 percent did so two or more times, up from 60 percent and 35 percent in a 2006 survey.

» **Thirty-six percent** said they used the Internet to plagiarize an assignment, up from 33 percent in 2004.

» **Forty-two percent** said they sometimes lie to save money—49 percent of the boys and 36 percent of the girls.

» Despite such responses, **93 percent** of the students said they were satisfied with their personal ethics and character, and 77 percent affirmed that "when it comes to doing what is right, I am better than most people I know."

NUMBERS

Twelve expensive days

Prices of items in the Christmas carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas," according to PNC Wealth Management:

» **Partridge**, \$20 (last year: \$15)

» **Pear Tree**, \$200 (last year: \$150)

» **Two Turtle Doves**, \$55 (last year: \$40)

» **Three French Hens**, \$30 (last year: \$45)

» **Four Calling Birds** (canaries), \$600 (last year: same)

» **Five Gold Rings**, \$350 (last year: \$395)

» **Six Geese a-Laying**, \$240 (last year: \$360)

» **Seven Swans a-Swimming**, \$5,600 (last year: \$4,200)

» **Eight Maids a-Milking**, \$52 (last year: \$47)

» **Nine Ladies Dancing** (per performance), \$4,759 (last year: same)

» **10 Lords a-Leaping** (per performance), \$4,414 (last year: \$4,285)

» **11 Pipers Piping** (per performance), \$2,285 (last year: \$2,213)

» **12 Drummers Drumming** (per performance), \$2,475 (last year: \$2,398)



Standoff continues in Thailand

1 BANGKOK Government supporters converged on the capital Sunday to counter rival protesters who seized control of Bangkok's two airports and forced the prime minister to run the country from afar. **GETTY IMAGES**

Shuttle detour

2 Dangerously high wind and a stormy sky prevented space shuttle Endeavour from returning to its home base in Florida on Sunday, and NASA ordered the astronauts to take a detour and land at Edwards Air Force Base in sunny California.

Cockfight arrests

3 Police say they raided a cockfight in a rural part of Dallas, arresting three organizers and sending hundreds of spectators fleeing into the woods.

Wal-Mart death

4 Police are reviewing surveillance videos of a post-Thanksgiving shopper stampede that trampled a Valley Stream, N.Y., Wal-Mart worker to death, but they acknowledge it may be difficult to bring criminal charges.

Exchanging remains

5 Iraq and Iran on Sunday exchanged the remains of 241 soldiers killed during an eight-year war between the two countries—the latest sign of increased cooperation between the neighboring nations that were fierce rivals under Saddam Hussein.

Halt in violence

6 After two days of mob violence, an uneasy calm returned Sunday to Jos, Nigeria. Women with plastic buckets ventured out in search of water and many of the dead were buried.

Restaurant deaths

7 Police say at least 12 masked gunmen opened fire inside a restaurant in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, killing eight, police said. The homicides were the latest of hundreds of killings in the city.

sports



The Vikings' Chad Greenway celebrates four consecutive goal-line stops for the Vikings on Sunday as Minnesota beat Chicago 34-14 and took over sole possession of first place in the NFC North and dropped the Bears into second place. JIM PRISCHING/TRIBUNE



MINNESOTA 34, CHICAGO 14

First & done

Vikings manhandle Bears, take over first in NFC North

Bears, Vikings. Prime time. National TV. Two of the league's best running backs. First place on the line. A game of this magnitude could only be covered by RedEye's own Bag Boy and his Monday Mourning Quarterback quarter-by-quarter review. Without further ado, we turn it over to Bags.

monday mourning quarterback

BAG BOY
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@tribune.com

FIRST QUARTER

Bears 7, Minnesota 0

Former Bears receiver Bernard Berrian catches the game's first pass. Uh-oh. Turns out, though, it didn't mean as much as Devin Hester's first catch: A 65-yard reception that went for a touchdown. Glad this happened. Maybe now the Bears will use Hester only on offense. He's clearly lost his edge on returns. Prime example: His punt return at the end of the quarter. He actually ran backward. Ummm, wrong way Devin. The defense looks like it's back. Easily handled the Vikes. Even Adrian Peterson wasn't much of a factor. He did make the D look pretty bad on a couple of runs, though. I love Matt Forte. Love Matt Forte, but I'd give him up for A.P. in an instant. Sorry, Matt.

SECOND QUARTER

Minnesota 17, Bears 7

I'm hearing Berrian's name too much. Why? Like Hester, he also returns punts. Which means we're punting too much. Remember what I said about Peterson. He just broke loose. A 59-yarder. The D makes up for it, keeps the Vikings out of the end zone with a red-zone stand. Field goal. I'll take it. Bears almost get a safety. Almost. Hester fields the punt. Almost breaks it. Almost. A lot of "almost" this quarter. The Bears unveil the "cajun" formation, with Forte taking the snap. It fails. Don't do it again. It worked for Miami for about a second, and now everyone does it. Forte finally breaks free, almost scores. They get four shots from the 1. Can't get it in. I almost threw my TV out the window. Almost. Next play: Gus Frerotte to Berrian; 99-yard TD. Next Vikings series: Another touchdown.

THIRD QUARTER

Minnesota 24, Bears 14

Slow start, then Kevin Payne picks off Frerotte, returns it inside the 5. Kyle Orton to Forte for 7. We're back, baby! Then, they almost give it all back on the kickoff return. An Orton pick. First in weeks. Peterson goes out; Chester Taylor comes in. I breath a sigh of relief. What!!! Taylor goes 21 yards to paydirt. I'm gonna need more bags. Then we go three and out. Is this when we give up? Too early for that. Basically a stalemate this quarter. Touchdown for touchdown. I'm no math genius, but that's not gonna cut it.

FOURTH QUARTER

Minnesota 34, Bears 14

Orton picked off again. Ben Leber fumbles the long return. It goes out of bounds—advantage Minnesota. The Bears aren't getting the breaks. Which means my remote is getting the breaks every time I throw it against the wall. Taylor can't get into the end zone this time. Peterson can. Vikings double up the Bears. That's pretty much it, right there. Say goodbye to first place in the NFC North. The season ain't over, folks. But it gets a lot harder to make the playoffs. Next up, Jacksonville. At Soldier Field. That should be a W.

BACK TALK

What do you think, Bears fans: Is Bag Boy on the right track? Please e-mail us at redeyesports@tribune.com. Or you can text "whiz" followed by your comments to **47383**. Remember to include your full name, age and neighborhood.

txtable

Struggling Vikings needed this win

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS With a gutty goal-line stand and one big heave by Gus Frerotte, the Minnesota Vikings grabbed control of the NFC North and sent Kyle Orton and the Bears home with a humbling defeat.

Seconds after the Bears were stopped four times at the 1, Bernard Berrian pulled in a 99-yard touchdown pass from Frerotte that sent the Vikings to a 34-14 victory and sole possession of the division lead Sunday night.

Orton's team-record streak of 206 attempts without an interception ended with a thud, and Minnesota turned three turnovers into 17 second-half points. Orton finished 11-for-29 for 153 yards and two touchdowns.

Adrian Peterson had 100 yards by half-time and finished with 131 yards and a touchdown for the Vikings, who enjoyed their most lopsided win of the season.

When the afternoon scores were given over the loudspeaker before the game,

Green Bay's 35-31 loss to Carolina got a hearty cheer. The Packers (5-7) fell two games behind after a brutal November, and the Vikings (7-5) sailed into the fourth quarter of the season with a critical lead over the Bears (6-6).

The possibility of four-game suspensions for star defensive tackles Kevin Williams and Pat Williams looms for Minnesota, and the Bears play three straight weeks at home. Clearly, this was one the Vikings just had to have.

Dome home

1 When it's rainy, snowy, windy outside, that makes for the best football. Shame on you, Minnesota.



canine lines

WHIZZER
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Hyper hyperbole

2 A lot will be said about the result of Sunday's Bears-Vikings game, but the reality is, the NFC North is still anyone's to take. Even Green Bay (shudder).

Welcome back

3 Let's hope the Bulls' and Blackhawks' return from their annual West Coast road trip doesn't end with them cleaning up after the circus animals at the United Center.

Brand stand

4 Don't mean to beat a dead horse, but can you imagine how much better the Bulls would have been if they hadn't let Elton Brand go?



Brand

Double trouble

5 The Bulls play the 76ers again Tuesday. I don't care under what circumstances it happens, two days of Philly is too much for anyone. Just ask Donovan McNabb.

Cold sore

6 The once-red-hot Blackhawks have cooled off. Funny how a little success changes your whole outlook on a team.

Best defense

7 The Giants' Plaxico Burress shot himself in the leg at a nightclub Saturday. Well, that's one way of slowing him down.



Burress

Smooth move

8 If he's like me, Burress was just using any way possible to get out of showing off his dance moves.

Skins loses its shirt

9 Golf's Skins Game was Sunday, but you didn't notice did you? A lot of people across the golf world can't wait for Tiger to come back. Those people do not include fellow golfers.



Baltimore's Mark Clayton elevates to make a catch over Cincinnati's Jamar Fletcher on Sunday. **GETTY IMAGES**

NFC standings

North	W	L	T	PCT.	Week 13 scores
Minnesota	7	5	0	.583	W, 34-14 vs. BEARS
BEARS	6	6	0	.500	L, 34-14 at Minnesota
Green Bay	5	7	0	.417	L, 35-31 vs. Carolina
Detroit	0	12	0	.000	L, 47-10 vs. Tennessee
South	W	L	T	PCT.	Week 13 scores
Carolina	9	3	0	.750	W, 35-31 at Green Bay
Tampa Bay	9	3	0	.750	W, 23-20 vs. New Orleans
Atlanta	8	4	0	.667	W, 22-16 at San Diego
New Orleans	6	6	0	.500	L, 23-20 at Tampa Bay
East	W	L	T	PCT.	Week 13 scores
N.Y. Giants	11	1	0	.917	W, 23-7 at Washington
Dallas	8	4	0	.667	W, 34-9 vs. Seattle
Washington	7	5	0	.583	L, 23-7 vs. NYG
Philadelphia	6	5	1	.542	W, 48-20 vs. Arizona
West	W	L	T	PCT.	Week 13 scores
Arizona	7	5	0	.583	L, 48-20 at Philadelphia
San Francisco	4	8	0	.333	W, 10-3 at Buffalo
St. Louis	2	10	0	.167	L, 16-12 vs. Miami
Seattle	2	10	0	.167	L, 34-9 at Dallas

AFC standings

North	W	L	T	PCT.	Week 13 scores
Pittsburgh	9	3	0	.750	W, 33-10 at N. England
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	W, 34-3 at Cincinnati
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	L, 10-6 vs. Indianapolis
Cincinnati	1	10	1	.125	L, 34-3 vs. Baltimore
South	W	L	T	PCT.	Week 13 scores
Tennessee	11	1	0	.917	W, 47-10 at Detroit
Indianapolis	8	4	0	.667	W, 10-6 at Cleveland
Jacksonville	4	7	0	.364	Mon. at Houston
Houston	4	7	0	.364	Mon. vs. Jacksonville
East	W	L	T	PCT.	Week 13 scores
N.Y. Jets	8	4	0	.667	L, 34-17 vs. Denver
New England	7	5	0	.583	L, 33-10 vs. Pittsburgh
Miami	7	5	0	.583	W, 16-12 at St. Louis
Buffalo	6	6	0	.500	L, 10-3 vs. San Francisco
West	W	L	T	PCT.	Week 13 scores
Denver	7	5	0	.583	W, 34-17 at NYJ
San Diego	4	8	0	.333	L, 22-16 vs. Atlanta
Oakland	3	9	0	.250	L, 20-13 vs. Kansas City
Kansas City	2	10	0	.167	W, 20-13 at Oakland

STUD OF THE WEEK

Mark Clayton

The veteran receiver caught five passes for 164 yards and a touchdown for the now-powerful Ravens offense.

DUD OF THE WEEK

Clinton Portis

One of the NFL's top backs was limited to 22 yards rushing as the Redskins fell to the Giants. He also was stopped on a key fourth-and-1 in the fourth quarter.

THUD OF THE WEEK

Kellen Winslow

The oft-injured Browns tight end was injured on the first play of the second half against the Colts. He makes Cubs pitchers look downright durable.

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If you have high cholesterol or are taking a cholesterol medication, you may be interested in a research study of an investigational medication that may reduce your risk for heart disease.



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Loony tuner

Catch Marc Silverman of the "Waddle & Silvy" show from 9 a.m. to noon weekdays on ESPN's WMVP and espnradio1000.com.



TOPIC

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1 We asked our panelists to make a prediction before Sunday's Bears game. Go!

Tommie Harris gets 12 sacks after being told Gus Frerotte has pumpkin pie under his helmet.

The Bears will win to earn a berth in the Humanitarian Bowl ... but lose.

This will be the most important game the Bears ever play! (Until next week, that is.)

Robbie Gould loses a shoe on a 57-yard field goal, but he nails it—with the ball and his shoe.

John Madden makes 169 Thanksgiving references. Adrian Peterson gets that many yards.

2 What will be Chicago's sports highlight in December?

It really depends on whether Michael Phelps plans to go clubbing here this month.

The Cubs will trade for Jake Peavy.

When Chicago discovers it has a real NHL team.

Bears squeak into the playoffs with a final-game win at Houston. Yes, we have a problem.

Eric Daze's jersey retirement. If you're not on the Hawks bandwagon yet, this will get you on.

3 If I never have to hear the term "circus trip" again, I'll ...

... never know Jimmy's true origin story.

... feel sad that I went deaf.

... pack my bags and join the circus, but we all know that ain't gonna happen.

... take back all the bad things I said about Rex Grossman. Hold on, that's impossible.

... hug Charlie Weis, or try, and never make fun of him again. Ah forget it, bring in the clowns!

4 What nickname would you give your road trip out West?

The Pukes of Hazard.

The Cockroaches Are Back Tour.

Elliott's Disneyland to Tijuana Adventure.

I Went Out West and All I Got Was This Stupid Nickname.

The Even I Can Do Better than Jimmy Clausen trip.

5 What might Philadelphia's Elton Brand have said to his former team, the Bulls, on Sunday?

"Still no championship rings. You?"

"I'm still not over getting traded to the Clippers."

"So ... getting ready to trade another NBA Rookie of the Year?"

"Starting over again, eh? I would have never guessed."

"Hey Eddy! What's up, Tyson! Oh, you're Joakim and you're Tyrus? Excuse me."



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HOMETOWN HITS



GETTY IMAGES FILE



Like seemingly everyone else this shopping season, the Cubs are watching their money. But that hasn't stopped them from checking into San Diego pitcher Jake Peavy (above) and his \$60 million-plus contract while also exploring their options for a left-handed-hitting outfielder. With the possibility that new ownership will limit a payroll that could be among the top five in baseball, the Cubs' hierarchy is watching the checkbook while trying to balance the bottom line. GM Jim Hendry declined to comment on trades or free-agent signings but did say he'd had "talks on both sides, just like always" as the annual winter meetings convene next week in Las Vegas.



GRAND RAPIDS 1, WOLVES 0

The Wolves were shut out for the first time this season in their loss Sunday at Allstate Arena. The loss was just the Wolves' second on home ice this season, second fewest in the American Hockey League.



NEXT GAME
Northwestern
vs. UC Riverside

8 p.m. Monday, Big Ten Network



NO. 8 NOTRE DAME 93,
FURMAN 61

Kyle McAlarney scored 32 points and Ryan Ayers had a career-high 19 points to lead No. 8 Notre Dame to its school-record 39th straight home victory, beating Furman 93-61 on Sunday.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

>> Illinois St. 87, UC Santa Barbara 59

BULLS 103, PHILADELPHIA 92



Bulls guard Derrick Rose (center) drives to the basket Sunday against the 76ers. The No. 1 overall draft pick scored 18 points and added 10 assists in the Bulls' victory. AP PHOTO

Road warriors

Ben Gordon scored 21 points, Drew Gooden had 20 points and 12 rebounds, and the Bulls rallied from an early deficit for a 103-92 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Sunday.

Derrick Rose, the No. 1 overall pick in the draft, contributed 18 points and 10 assists. Reserve Larry Hughes had 16 points for the Bulls (8-9), who won for only the third time in 10 games on the road. It was the final stop on a seven-game road trip that began Nov. 18 in L.A. against the Lakers. All three of the Bulls' road wins came during this stretch.

DID YOU KNOW?

Elton Brand was originally selected by the Bulls with the top pick in the 1999 draft. Brand spent two seasons with the Bulls and seven with the L.A. Clippers before signing with the Sixers in July.

Former Bull Elton Brand had 21 points and 12 rebounds, and Thaddeus Young added 17 points for the reeling Sixers, who have lost four straight to fall to 7-10.

The Bulls held a 71-66 lead late in the third before running off 12 straight points to take an 83-66 advantage at the end of the quarter. Rose had six of the 12 points, including a high-flying, one-handed dunk

with 32 seconds remaining.

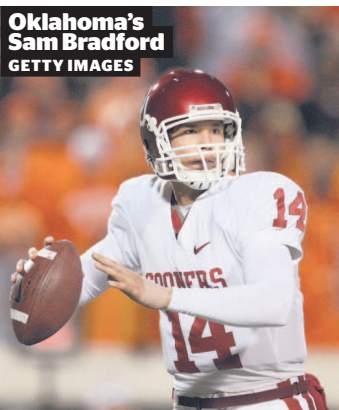
After a 3-pointer by Hughes gave the Bulls a 92-73 lead with 7:21 left, the fans booed and a large throng of them began to vacate the arena.

HIT AND RUN

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Sooners get shot at national title

Oklahoma is ahead of Texas in the BCS standings and headed to the Big 12 championship game with an inside track to the national title. A three-way tie between Oklahoma, Texas and Texas Tech atop the Big 12 South standings forced the league to use its fifth tiebreaker, best BCS rating, to determine which team will play Missouri on Saturday in Kansas City, Mo.



Oklahoma's Sam Bradford
GETTY IMAGES

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Rainstorm delays game—indoors

The Michigan State-Wichita State fifth-place game at the Old Spice Classic was delayed by a heavy rainstorm that caused the roof at the Milk House in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., to leak. Water dripped from the ceiling and formed puddles underneath the Michigan State basket with just under 13 minutes left in the first half and the Spartans up 9-7.

COPS AND JOCKS

Athletes can't seem to stay out of trouble, and we can't seem to look away.

Burress to be charged

Plaxico Burress' lawyer said Sunday he was advised that the former Michigan State and current New York Giants star receiver will be charged with criminal possession of a weapon after accidentally shooting himself in the right thigh at a Manhattan nightclub. Lawyer Benjamin Brafman wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press that Burress will turn himself in Monday morning in New York City and "will enter a plea of not guilty later that same day."

watch dog

WHIZZER
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Now it gets interesting. The NFL season comes down to these last few weeks, and it can make for exciting viewing.

Not only will the games be more important, but many will be played in wintry conditions that can be a great equalizer. Let's face it. There's nothing like football in the snow. Of course, Leon Lett might disagree.

Here now, my TV picks.



AP FILE

NFL
Jacksonville
at Houston
7:30 p.m. ESPN

Nothing says "Monday Night Football" like a meaningless game in December in Houston.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wisconsin
at Virginia Tech
6 p.m. ESPN2

This would be a better college football game.

NHL
Colorado
at Minnesota
7 p.m. VERSUS

The Blackhawks' success makes other NHL games infinitely more interesting because they actually matter now.

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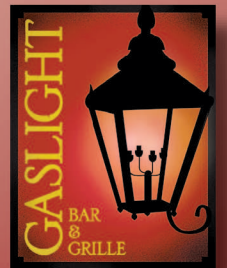
\$3 Blue Moon & Coors Light Drafts
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\$5 Boneless Wings, \$5 Pita Sandwich
\$4 O-Bombs

Battle of the Sexes Fridays!

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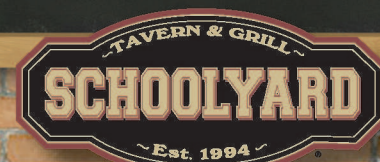
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metromix



Ready? Set. Go!

It'll be '09 in no time. Make the most of '08 day by day

By Metromix staff

Thirty-one days? In stressed-out holiday time, that's not even enough time to think, no less shop, decorate and party plan. But really, working in some holiday cheer with your remaining '08 to-dos is as easy as breaking it down by day—starting today!



Dec. 1: Dress up your pad with the festive yet un-cheesy **holiday decorations** at Persona (3823 N. Southport Ave.).

Dec. 2: Check out the limited-time **\$45 prix-fixe menu** at Spring (2039 W. North Ave.). Plus, spend \$100 this month and you get a \$25 gift card.

Dec. 3: Find a New Year's Eve date at **Flirting for Disaster**, a benefit for the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago at Crimson Lounge (333 N. Dearborn St.). \$20-\$25.



Dec. 4: Raise your glass to **Repeal Day** and the end of Prohibition at Fion Wine & Spirits (426 W. Diversey Pkwy.) with a free scotch tasting.

Dec. 5: Streamline your ugly holiday sweater search at **uglysweaterstore.com**, founded by two Chicagoans.

Dec. 6-7: Score indie gifts at the **Renegade Craft Fair Holiday Sale** at Pulaski Park Fieldhouse (1419 W. Blackhawk St.).

Dec. 8: Get **white truffles** at Merlo on Maple (16 W. Maple St.) while you can—the fragrant fungi will be gone by month's end.

Dec. 9: Pump up your party appetizer arsenal at the **Pizza Cooking Class** at Frasca Pizzeria and Wine Bar (3358 N. Paulina St.). \$20.

Dec. 10: Get sudsy in public at **Bubble Bath IX** with samples of more than 75 champagnes and sparkling wines. \$50. Bin 36 (339 N. Dearborn St.)

Dec. 11: See **"Cadillac Records,"** about Chicago-based record label Chess Records, starring Beyonce Knowles, opening Dec. 5.

Dec. 12: Turn the tables on winter cocktails and opt for sake during the **12 Sakes of the Holiday** at Kohan Japanese Restaurant (730 W. Maxwell St.).

Dec. 13: Order your secret Santa giftee a **three-hour cruise** from CityLights at Navy Pier. VIP passes for 2009 cruises are only \$16 until Christmas. 312-238-9615.

Dec. 14: Order tickets to one of two '20s-themed NYE dinners at **Kit Kat Lounge and Supper Club** (3700 N. Halsted. 773-525-1111), and get 10 percent off the price.

Dec. 15: Sample several new restaurants at **A Taste of New on the Scene** at Sam's Wines & Spirits (50 E. Roosevelt Rd.). Includes wine.

Dec. 16: Grab a bottle of Anchor Brewing Co.'s **2008 Christmas Ale** at Weegee's Lounge (3659 W. Armitage) before the spiced ale runs out—usually by early January.

Dec. 17: Alleviate holiday stress during **St. Practice Day**, featuring St. Patrick's Day specials, such as \$3 green beers, at Mahoney's Pub & Grille (551 N. Ogden Ave.).



Dec. 18: See up-and-coming crooner **Bon Iver** tonight at The Vic (3145 N. Sheffield Ave.), before his intimate shows are held at not remotely intimate places.

Dec. 19: Warm up with the **Crimson Hot Toddy** (\$14), made from scratch by mixologist Todd Appel at Crimson Lounge (333 N. Dearborn St.).

Dec. 20: Party at a decked-out bar. We've got our eye on the **Blue Line** (1548 N. Damen Ave.) in Wicker Park.

Dec. 21: Savor the strudel and score quality last-minute gifts at the **13th Annual Christkindlmarket Chicago** (50 W. Washington St.), which ends Dec. 24.

Dec. 22: Have dinner at **312 Chicago** (136 N. La Salle St.) before longtime executive chef Dean Zanella steps down Dec. 31 to open his own spot.

Dec. 23: Snag a bottle of **organic eggnog** from Trader's Point Creamery at Green Grocer Chicago (1402 W. Grand Ave.).

Dec. 24: Sip on a snifter of **Christmas Ale** from Great Lakes Brewing Co., on tap at The Shire Public House (3328 N. Lincoln Ave.).

Dec. 25: Gift yourself a 12-mile **Christmas Day Bagel Ride** that ends with brunch at The Bagel Restaurant and Deli.

Meet at Waveland Clock Tower (3700 N. Recreation Drive).

Dec. 26: Watch Brad Pitt age backwards during **"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button,"** out Christmas Day.

Dec. 27: Haven't been to the Morse Theater yet? Catch local trumpeter **Corey Wilkes** with Black Slang at Dec. 27.

Dec. 28: Brake out the skates and head to **Millenium Park's ice rink**. It's yours till 10 p.m.



Dec. 29: Dig into the **mini-cupcakes** at Duchamp (2118 N. Damen Ave.) before you make your New Year's resolutions.

Dec. 30: Chill out by the fireplace and reflect on the past year at new Uptown bar **The Wild Pug** (4808 N. Broadway).

Dec. 31: Bid farewell to 2008 at Congress Theater with **Justice**, the best dance party imaginable to close out the year.


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MONDAY FREEBIE

Call and response

The California Clipper, 1002 N. California Ave.
773-384-2547.

Turns out you can get something for nothing: Make a beeline for the Clipper's long-standing **bingo night** for a free card from number callers Steve Spataro and Steve Sowely and—if they call your digits—you win a bag of treats from Uncle Fun. 9:30 p.m.

mon
1

Patchwork

Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave. 773-753-4472.

Did you know that today is World AIDS Day? Get the party under way at **The AIDS Quilt Songbook**, a benefit for Season of Concern that features 15 new songs by local and national composers, performed by singers from the Chicago Opera Vanguard. Arrive at 6 p.m. to see "CSI" producer and current "Dublin Carol" star William Petersen receive the 2008 Larry Sloan award. The pre-show reception includes beer, wine and appetizers. 8 p.m. \$25-\$75.

Girl talk

T's Restaurant and Bar, 5025 N. Clark St. 312-777-1070.

Rasaka Theatre Company's new play, "**Yoni Ki Baat**," inspired by Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," features monologues, music and dance performances from South Asian women. (Directly translated, the words "yoni ki baat" mean "talks of the vagina.") Meet the cast at a launch party for the play and get \$5 burgers and \$7 double pints of draft beer. A portion of your tab benefits the production, which begins previews Jan. 4. 8 p.m. No cover.

tue
2

Perfect pair

Binny's Beverage Depot, 1132 S. Jefferson St. 312-768-4400.

Holiday entertaining doesn't get any easier than this, folks: The **Metromix Holiday Dessert Pairings** event marries treats from Custom House, Chaos Theory Cakes & Confections, Hoosier Mama Pie Company and others with specialty wine and liqueur pairings from the store's extensive inventory. Includes live acoustic pop from Charles Kim and Jeff Freling. 6 p.m. \$10.

Shoot the Grinch

China Grill, 230 N. Michigan Ave. 312-334-6700.

Want to expand your cocktail horizons? Head to China Grill's **holiday cocktail class** and create drinks with festive names such as Rosie Cheeks, the Grinch Shooter, Grandma's Cider and Peppermint Bliss; then sample your concoctions with complimentary appetizers. 6 p.m. \$30. Reservations required.

wed
3

Social disaster relief

Crimson Lounge, 333 N. Dearborn St. 312-729-6130.

Prefer to end the year on a high note rather than a single one? Lock eyes with other cuties at the **Flirting for Disaster** fundraiser for the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago, and you could land a date for New Year's Eve while you mingle over complimentary wine and cheese. Includes music by DJ Swizz, a raffle and \$5 Smirnoff Flirtinis. 6 p.m. Wednesday. \$20-\$25.

HOW TO REACH US | FOR ENTERTAINMENT INFORMATION 24/7, GO TO **METROMIX.COM**.

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For questions, comments and story ideas, contact Matt McGuire, editor, at mmcguire@tribune.com

To submit event information for Metromix or metromix.com, go to metromix.com/listings.



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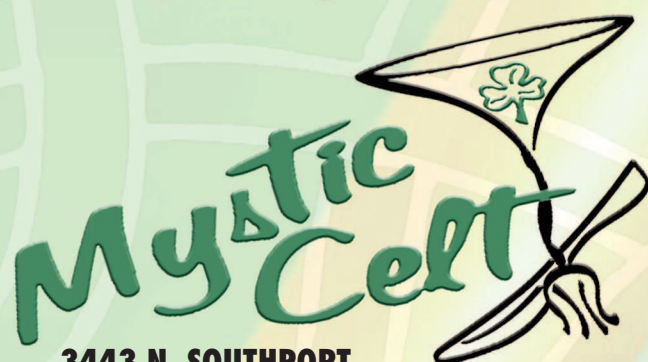
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¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition

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T'S RESTAURANT AND BAR
8 p.m.: "Yoni Ki Baat" launch party. Meet the cast of the new play "Yoni Ki Baat," (opening Jan. 4. at Strawdog Theatre) and learn about the show, a collection of monologues, music and dance performances by South Asian women loosely inspired by Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues." A portion of your food and drink tab benefits the production. \$5 burgers (with beverage purchase), \$7 double pint draft beers. No cover; 5025 N. Clark St. 312-777-1070.

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Metromix's top shows



WACO BROTHERS
Local rockers heat things up at this benefit show. With LMNOP, Corporate X. 8 p.m. \$10. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

KRISTEEN YOUNG
High drama from a big voice. With A Common Enemy.

9 p.m. \$5. Red Line Tap, 7006 N. Glenwood Ave. 773-274-5463.

WALKING BICYCLES
Hey, remember the '80s? With Plastic Crimewave Sound, My Gold Mask. 9 p.m. Free. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

THE AIDS QUILT SONGBOOK
6 p.m. (reception and awards presentations), 8 p.m. (concert). \$25 for concert only; \$75 for concert and pre-show reception. Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave. 773-753-4472.

ANDY BROWN/ART DAVIS QUARTET
5 p.m. \$5. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.

GRANA' LOUISE AND THE TROUBLEMAKERS
9 p.m. \$8. Blue Chicago at Superior, 736 N. Clark St. 312-642-6261.

ISAIAH SPENCER AND THE ORIGINALS WITH MWATA BOWDEN
8:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Velvet Lounge, 67 E. Cermak Rd. 312-791-9050.

J.W. WILLIAMS, JOHN PRIMER AND THE REAL DEAL BLUES BAND
9:30 p.m. \$12. Kingston Mines, 2548 N. Halsted St. 773-477-4646.

JEN PORTER'S MOST FABULOUS TRIO
Midnight. Cover varies. The Underground Wonder Bar, 10 E. Walton St. 312-266-7761.

JIMMY BURNS HOSTS THE JAM
9:30 p.m. \$10. Buddy

Guy's Legends, 754 S. Wabash Ave. 312-427-0333.

MIKE WHEELER, QUINTUS MCCORMICK
9:30 p.m. \$7. B.L.U.E.S., 2519 N. Halsted St. 773-528-1012.

THE MUDFLAPPS
8 p.m. Free. The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. 847-864-1679.

PATRICIA BARBER QUARTET
9 p.m. \$7. The Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

SANGUINE MEANS, FLATLANDER, ASK YOU IN GRAY, JULIA LUCAFO
8:30 p.m. \$7. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

SCOTT ANDERSON'S NIA QUINTET
10 p.m. Free. Morseland, 1218 W. Morse Ave. 773-764-8900.

SHANNON RICHARDSON BAND, BRAD COLE, DORSEY
8 p.m. \$6. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

YOKO NOGE'S JAZZ ME BLUES BAND
9 p.m. \$10. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.



They Might Be Giants
MCT

Giant success

The Washington Post

John Flansburgh and John Linnell started making music in high school in Massachusetts in the late 1970s.

The duo, now known as They Might Be Giants, experimented with sounds and words on their four-track in their parents' basement.

"We were the perfect age to get pulled into the New Wave explosion. It was a very empowering moment for people interested in music," said guitarist and vocalist Flansburgh.

New Wave, he said, resurrected "the concise song, compressed thought and very direct use of melody. All the cool stuff about a pop song was brought back."

Not exactly the lighthearted banter one might expect from the man behind songs about palindromes, Shriners loaning people cars or Constantinople. But most die-hard fans also know that their seemingly silly words mean things.

In the 1980s, Linnell and Flansburgh

started playing in the East Village of New York as part of a performance art movement. Their original show included "long screaming moments," Flansburgh said. "We were more a part of the zeitgeist than we realize." The two had no idea how audiences would react to the music. But 10 minutes into their first show, the crowds not only liked it, they reacted to it by laughing.

Flansburgh and Linnell didn't expect the music to take off.

"It sort of morphed into a profession," Flansburgh said. "There was a point before we started making a living at it [when] we didn't want to perform to make a living. We were really doing it for ourselves." Then he added, "Our culture makes too much about being successful."

Desired or not, success has found the band whose resume includes the music for TV's "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart"

and "Malcolm in the Middle" and such hugely successful songs as "Particle Man" and "I Palindrome I."

With such goofy titles, a fan might not realize how seriously TMBG takes its music.

"When we're putting stuff together, we're drawing on a lot of sad stuff, really far afield from pop music," Flansburgh said. "A lot of what we're doing is contrary motion: melodic

songs with adult and dire lyrics. That combination of things, that little bit of opposing musical convention is our secret formula."

The duo is working on a new album, which Flansburgh said is "a little bit more experimental." But, fans, don't get too excited. It won't be finished for years, he said. In the meantime, new and old fans can get a taste of the band's sound by downloading free podcasts at dialasong.com.

They Might Be Giants

When: 9 p.m.

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Where: Metro, 3730 N. Clark St.

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Nurse	NORTH CHICAGO VA MEDICAL CENTER	Waukegan	CB310912
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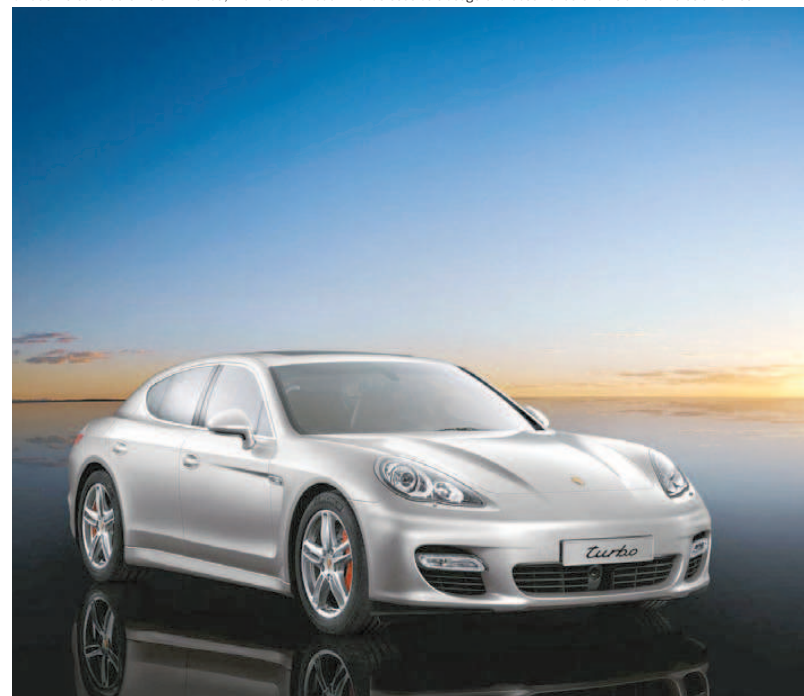
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Madonna is surrounded by children in Malawi in a scene from her documentary, "I Am Because We Are." **SUNDANCE**

No one's silencing pop icon

Madonna's documentary "I Am Because We Are" reflects her belief that documentaries should take a stand rather than simply record reality.

"I got into an argument with someone at the Sundance festival who said I have to make a choice between being an activist and a filmmaker," the singer said earlier this year. "That's rubbish. I've been an activist and an artist all my life."

Those activist flourishes came out during the recent election season. On her "Sticky & Sweet Tour," she worked a shtick banning Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin from the concerts and she projected a montage at her shows juxtaposing Barack Obama with Gandhi, and John McCain with Hitler.

"I'm allowed to have an opinion," she said. **L.A. TIMES**

JOIN FIGHT AGAINST AIDS

Beginning Monday, World AIDS Day, half of each subscription fee to the digital music service (Red)Wire, at red.msn.com, will go to the Global Fund to help buy medicine for those living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. Members of the service will receive a weekly digital music offering—exclusive songs donated by such artists as Coldplay, Death Cab for Cutie, the Dixie Chicks, Jay-Z, John Legend, U2 and Elton John. **L.A. TIMES**

Madonna's message

Singer proves she's more than just the Material Girl with Malawi AIDS film

Associated Press

Madonna's awakening to the crisis in Malawi—an impoverished African nation where 1 million children are orphaned by AIDS—had many consequences.

She adopted one of those orphans, 3-year-old son David. She is building a school there.

And she has told Malawi's story in her documentary, "I Am Because We Are," which has its TV debut on World AIDS Day.

With an audience thus far limited to isolated theater screenings, it will be screened for everyone with cable at 8 p.m. Monday on Sundance Channel.

The feature-length film was written, produced and narrated by Madonna and directed by Nathan Rissman. It consults officials including former President Bill Clinton and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

"I had many goals," said Madonna during a phone conversation from her Manhattan home recently. "I did get to a point where I thought, 'I'm being overambitious, I'm trying to say too much, I'll never accomplish it.' But I feel proud of the fact that I did get to make all my points."

Among her points: an insistence that any crisis comes with solutions, however hard-won and piecemeal.

The film offers its audience a menu of constructive responses.

"If all you can do is live life in YOUR world in a way that shows you are responsible for the people around you, that's a course of action," Madonna said. "People can be of service in large ways and small."

Madonna didn't know where Malawi was when she was first made aware of the country's problems two years ago, she has said.

In 2006, a Malawi businesswoman contacted her through a mutual friend.

"She said it was a state of emergency," Madonna says in the film. "She sounded exhausted and on the verge of tears. I asked her how I could help."

"She said: 'You're a person with resources. People pay attention to what you say and do.' I felt embarrassed. I told her I didn't know where Malawi was. She told me to look it up on a map and then she hung up on me."

Sundance's airing of "I Am Because We Are" may be coming at a propitious time.

On the eve of a new presidential administration, Americans seem set on a more idealistic path, however alarmed they may be by economic threats along the way.

"People really are going, 'Wow! I can no longer ignore what's going on around me.' There are changes in the air," she said.

Madonna's busy schedule continues apace. But the artistic life that drives it "is a world you create and you inhabit, to express yourself, and to inspire and reach out to other people," she said. "It's also a consolation, a place you go to protect yourself."

That's true now, in particular, during her highly public split with Guy Ritchie, her husband of eight years, which she described as "not easy, I'm not going to lie."

Though on a brief New York break from her concert tour, Madonna said the day's long to-do list called for this interview to be followed by interviews she would be conducting herself: with prospective head mistresses for the girls school she is building in Malawi.

"We're all going there together at the end of March," she said, referring to David, 8-year-old Rocco and 12-year-old Lourdes.

"I'm very involved in a lot of things that are going on there," she said, and as she makes return visits with her kids, she wants them to gather insights into the plight of the world's underprivileged. "And David's always going to understand where he came from, and what his life could have been like."

Meanwhile, she hopes her film can spread the message to millions more.

"It has an impact on the people who see it," she said. "The more people, the bigger the impact."



Madonna holds her adopted son, David, during a 2007 trip in Mchinji, Malawi. One million children are orphaned by AIDS in the African country of Malawi.

AP FILE



An intimate journey



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The scoop: For once in Madonna's professional career, she's not hogging the spotlight. This touching documentary about the AIDS epidemic in Malawi—written, produced and narrated by the pop star—could have been a vanity piece, but her onscreen presence is kept to a minimum.

Madonna's involvement with Malawi—she has adopted a child from there, David, and is opening a school there—gives the film the feel of an intimate journey. But she smartly mentions David only briefly, saying, "I decided to try and adopt him; the rest is history."

For the most part, the camera focuses on the Malawian people, on luminaries such as former President Bill Clinton and Bishop Desmond Tutu, and the aid workers in the country.

What works: The film, directed by first-timer Nathan Rissman, works best when it focuses on the stories of Malawi's people, including a mom dying of AIDS who worries about her soon-to-be-orphaned son. The images of Malawi's indescribable suffering are important to see but difficult to watch.

What doesn't: Although emotional, the film isn't perfect. Madonna's script can go beyond sentimental: "People often ask me why I chose Malawi. I tell them I didn't. It chose me."

Tune in or out? Madonna shows she's more than the Material Girl, as she and Rissman have made an incredible film. "I hope that anyone watching this film will feel inspired to help in any way that they can," she says. You'll likely visit iambecauseweare.com to do just that.

**I Am
Because
We Are**
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Sundance



Chicagoan 'Survived'

I Survived
8 p.m. Monday,
Bio



A Chicago-area survivor opens the new season of "I Survived," Bio's compelling interview series.

In March 2006, three men attacked Karli in the parking garage of her South Loop apartment building, throwing battery acid on her and stuffing her into the trunk of her own car.

"I thought they were going to kill me," Karli says, camera tightly focused on her face. "I thought that it was over for me."

Karli's experience is included as one of three stories that recount incredible true events of survival. There are no cheesy reenactments. The camera focuses on the person being interviewed, breaking away only occasionally for shots that reflect where the events took place. Despite the lack of action, it's difficult to stop watching.

Karli managed to escape, but it was only the beginning of her nightmare, as she explains later in the episode. I won't spoil it: Tune in to see how the rest of the story unfolds.

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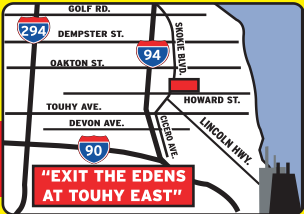
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"Australia" was filmed partly in the Kimberley wilderness region, where visitors will find the Kimberley Waterfalls.



The movie's World War II scenes mostly were filmed in Darwin, where tourists can visit Stokes Hill Wharf, which provided the backdrop for some of the harbor scenes.

Can Kidman drive tourism?

Associated Press

SYDNEY The film camera sweeps across the landscape, taking in flat plains, gushing waterfalls and a dusty country town. The color is brilliant, the emptiness palpable, and the soundtrack soars dramatically as warplanes bomb a city.

This is "Australia," the new movie by director Baz Luhrmann. Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman are in the film, but tourism promoters claim the real star of the movie is the country itself.

Tourism Australia, the national tourism

board, has launched a \$26 million international advertising campaign based on the movie, highlighting the wilderness of Western Australia state and encouraging tourists to refresh themselves by getting away from bustling cities and their busy daily lives.

"We knew that this huge film would create a wave of publicity that would put the country in the spotlight around the globe," said Geoff Buckley, managing director of Tourism Australia. "And we found that the film's story had a remarkable resonance for what we do marketing the country as a travel destination."

OTHER SITES:

» Bowen, Queensland, a beach town north of the Whitsunday Islands.

» The Strickland House at Vaucluse on Sydney Harbour, a historic 1850s villa and garden estate, served as the location for filming the movie's "Darwin Government House."

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Save us, Secret Santa!



Group gift exchange can be holiday reality

Associated Press

Families, friends and companies looking to stretch scarce budgets without stomping all over holiday cheer are turning to Secret Santa, charitable donations and similar group gift exchanges in these sour economic times. Web sites that take the sting out of organizing group giving report big increases in usage.

Elfster.com, which offers three online steps for inviting participants, drawing names and exchanging gifts, expects traffic to double this year over last year to more than 1 million visitors.

Frumus.com said its users also were exploding ahead of Thanksgiving.

Secretsanta.com has experienced a 25 percent increase in users so far this year over 2007, founder and CEO Franco Yuvienco said.

You'd like to organize a group gift exchange this year to save some money. But breaking the news at work or with family can take a little finesse. Here are some tips:

HOW TO BRING IT UP

Bonnie Russell, the mother of two grown children in Del Mar, Calif., has organized group gift exchanges with family, friends and colleagues for years. She suggests these pitches for broaching the subject:

» As a done deal, "so hopefully they fall like dominoes."

» Explain it's a way to join together during "our

country's time of need." This approach, said Russell, who works in media relations for a legal Web site, doesn't require that people reveal personal dilemmas, avoiding any possible embarrassment.

OTHERS IN THE SAME BOAT

You may anticipate resistance to gift exchanges where none will rise to haunt you. Elizabeth Castro of Chicago said her extended family and her husband's family are converting to Secret Santa with a \$50 limit and: "Guess what? No one is complaining about it."

PERCEPTION IS EVERYTHING

If you want to organize a gift exchange—especially if you are the boss at work—give everyone a say. Megan Slabinski, executive director of the specialized staffing firm The Creative Group in Menlo Park, Calif., said employees should be invited to participate in how gift exchanges will work. "Ideas are best received when employees have had a chance to weigh in," Slabinski said.

TRY CHARITABLE GIVING

Renee Junewicz of New York City has been exchanging gifts of \$25 in value with members of her book club for years, but she wanted to shift to a group donation for a care package benefiting a soldier this holiday season. "I had anticipated having to justify my suggestion," Junewicz said, adding that she was surprised at the reaction when she brought up pooling money to buy something through **treatsfortroops.com**. Her group jumped at the idea.

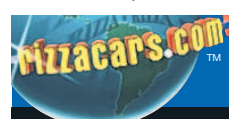
"Somehow, I think we all feel that we will honestly know that our gift is appreciated," she said. "Not that I didn't love that scarf with the multicolored sequins."



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'99 NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4-Door!	\$3,490
'98 FORD WINDSTAR GL Quad Seats, Alloy Whls!	\$2,190
'97 SATURN SC1 COUPE Auto, AM/FM, Alloy Whls!	\$2,490
'96 CHEVY CAMARO Z28 ABS, CD, PW/PL, Cruise!	\$6,990
'96 CHEVY C2500 SILVERADO X/CAB Pickup!	\$5,990
'96 MERCURY COUGAR Auto, Air Conditioning!	\$2,990
'95 CHRYSLER CIRRUS Auto, Air Conditioning!	\$2,890
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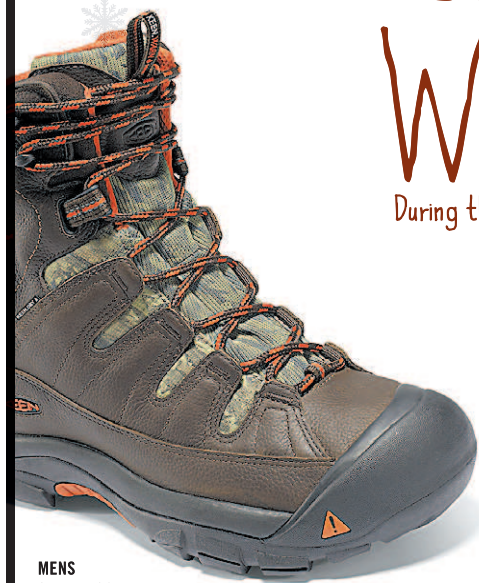


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HAPPY BIRTHDAY SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There's still a lot of cosmic firepower in your chart as four planets continue to create personal blast waves. Major changes are happening. Although your love life could have a lot of melodrama right now, everything is working together for good.

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Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Three friendly planets are helping you to feel more stable and financially grounded. Maybe you just got a raise or a promotion. Perhaps you're sitting on a nice savings. Treat your honey to a nice gift or an evening out on the town.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You're famous for your psychic abilities. This week Neptune is strengthening those intuitive powers. You'll sense what your partner needs in the bedroom. You'll anticipate what your honey is feeling and craving.



Pisces

Feb. 19-March 20

This is a good week to seek therapy through laughter. The moon is stirring up some hilarious moments of misadventure. It's best to laugh, because otherwise you'd have to cry. You could bond with your honey over something weird or wacky.



Aries

March 21-April 19

A bouncy sun has you focusing on the future and letting go of the past. So what if you have a psycho ex-spouse or a former roommate who still owes you rent money? There are so many positive things to think about. Concentrate on seduction and sensual fun instead.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

You could hit a surprising new level of sexual compatibility with your honey. Maybe you'll stumble upon a new erogenous zone or discover that you and your partner both have a secret turn-on such as role-playing, certain massage oils or specific music. Venus says enjoy.



Gemini

May 21-June 21

Feisty Mars is stirring up your need for a fight. But is it really

wise to go into battle with your honey? Just because you disagree about where to put those dirty socks or who should feed the cat doesn't justify World War III. Does it?



Cancer

June 22-July 22

Three planets are opposite your sign this week, making you feel like an outsider. You're desperate to find acceptance and approval from others. But don't get a neck tattoo or shave your hair in a drastic move to attract attention. Don't pull a Britney.



Leo

July 23-Aug. 22

You thought you were mad about a guy, but now he just makes you mad. You were crazy about a girl, but now you're realizing that the girl is crazy. The moon has you second guessing some recent romantic decisions. This is a good thing.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You and your honey could be settling into a cozy rhythm. Maybe you've moved in together and are busy playing house. Or perhaps you're spending more time together these days due to a change in schedules. Venus says savor these good times.



Libra

Sept. 23-Oct. 23

The moon says it's time to step outside your comfort zone. If you keep doing the same thing you'll keep getting the same results. Visit new places and socialize with an entirely different group of people.



Scorpio

Oct. 24-Nov. 21

You're losing patience with someone who has grown a bit toxic. Don't keep dating someone who continues to drag you down. And don't feel obligated to remain nice with a so-called "friend" who keeps stabbing you in the back. Mars is reminding you to look out for you.



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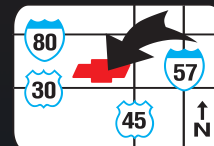
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'07 FORD TAURUS SE CD, Cruise, Rear Spoiler!	\$11,490
'07 FORD FOCUS ZX3 5 Speed, Air, CD	\$9,690
'06 CHRYSLER 300C HEMI Chromes, Mint, Leather, TracTion Control!	\$17,890
'06 MERCURY MONTEGO NAVI CERTIFIED! Leather, Moonroof	\$16,490
'06 DODGE CHARGER TracTion Control, CD, PW, PL, Air!	\$13,690
'06 PONTIAC G6 Moonroof, Auto, Air, CD, Chrome Wheels!	\$12,990
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'07 MERCURY MILAN PREMIER TOURING.....Heated Lthr, 6 Disc

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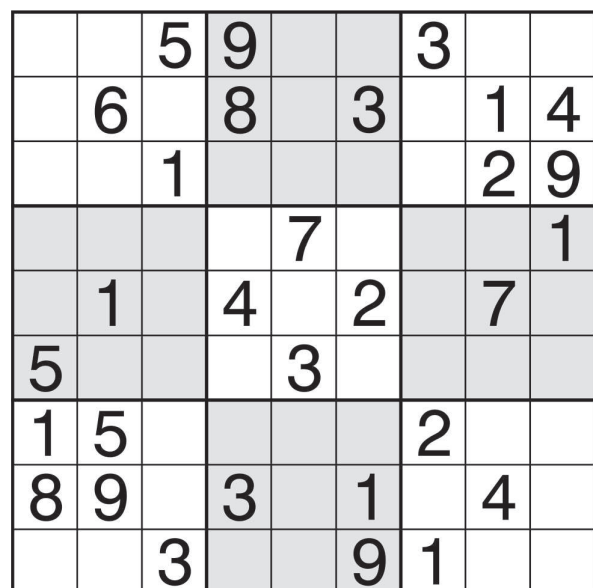
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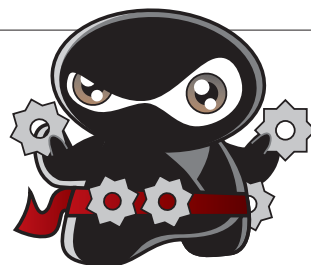
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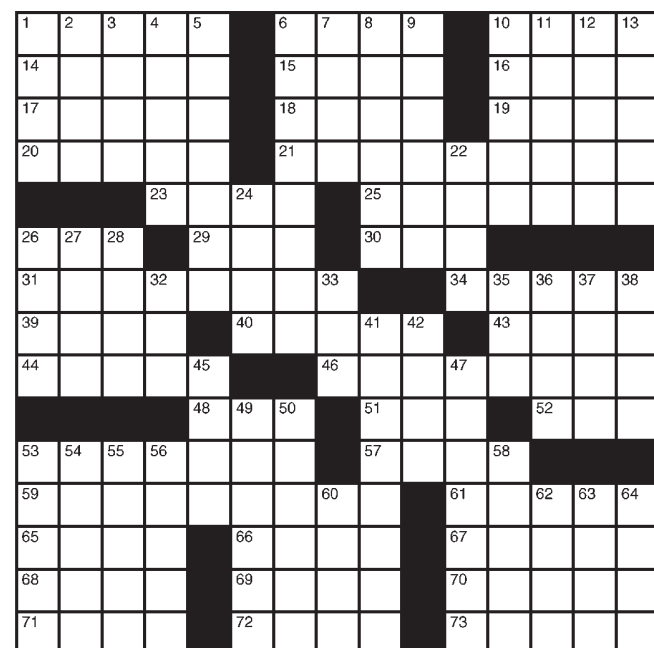
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ACROSS

- 1 Steer clear of
- 6 Give guff to
- 10 Potato
- 14 "Live at the Acropolis" performer
- 15 Comic Johnson
- 16 Choir voice
- 17 Adlai's slate-mate
- 18 Break a habit
- 19 Pipe sealant
- 20 Tempest
- 21 Pressure measurer
- 23 Yugoslavian dictator
- 25 Earthquake activity
- 26 Golfer's gadget
- 29 Clemente
- 30 Actor Mineo
- 31 Checked
- 34 Come to a point
- 39 Newton's filler
- 40 Mongolian, e.g.
- 43 Adoration
- 44 Experiments
- 46 Made a pledge
- 48 Actor Linden
- 51 Pekoe and Earl Grey, for two
- 52 Ernie of golf
- 53 During a performance
- 57 Whitney and Wallach
- 59 Rubber-ducky's milieu
- 61 Cowboy's rope
- 65 Actress Falco
- 66 Bangkok native
- 67 Construct
- 68 Knights' titles
- 69 Fabled loser
- 70 Potts or Oakley
- 71 Alleviate
- 72 Austrian range
- 73 Last breaths

DOWN

- 1 Positive votes
- 2 Enormous
- 3 Aware of
- 4 Like a couch potato



- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 5 Brush aside | 32 Approx. | 54 Gymnast Comaneci |
| 6 Doc, slangily | 33 Chip load | 55 Mixes up |
| 7 Surface measure | 35 The Greatest | 56 The closer ones |
| 8 Flinches | 36 Stance | 58 Dry-heat bath |
| 9 Lady of Spain | 37 Mr. Knievel | 60 "Wyatt _" |
| 10 Oregon capital | 38 Scarlet and crimson | 62 Evildoings |
| 11 Mickey's pup | 41 Blood channels | 63 Lingerie purchase |
| 12 Pronounce | 42 Holiday song | 64 Poetical tributes |
| 13 Active people | 45 "Rich Man, Poor Man" writer | |
| 22 Become liquid | 47 Letter-carrier's carry | |
| 24 So long, in Soho | 49 Christie of mysteries | |
| 26 Wilson's predecessor | 50 Fatal | |
| 27 Fabled canal | 53 Fatter than fat | |

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BY
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WALSH



RedEye examines
the Web's most
sought-after celebs

Star search

Britney Spears
AP FILE

It's getting to be that time of year again—a time to look back, to reflect, to really sit down and think about the celebrities who made a dent in 2008. (OK, maybe there's other stuff to think about too, but we're gonna go ahead and focus on the dirt for the time being.) So how do you sum up a year in the celebriverse? One way to do it is to look at the most-searched names on Internet search engines. Yahoo! on Monday released info about the top-searched names, themes and trends of '08.

For the seventh time in eight years, Britney Spears was the most popular search term and person on the Web. (The only other person to nab the top spot in that time was celebute Paris Hilton, who reigned in 2004.) Spears' new album, "Circus," drops Tuesday, her 27th birthday. So why is she at the top—again?

"Last year she was definitely No. 1 for what some could say were the wrong reasons," Vera Chan, a Yahoo! senior editor, told RedEye. "She had sort of a public meltdown and her life unraveled. This year she's No. 1 again, and it's

interesting because even though she's occupying the same space, she sort of symbolizes ... the mood for 2008, [a] sort of a new sobriety."

Chan said people can't get enough of that stuff.

"Americans and people all over like redemption tales," she said.

But that's not the only story we followed this year, of course. RedEye decided to have some fun with a few of the lists Yahoo! came up with, so we asked Chan to weigh in on what might be some interesting rivalries in '09.

TOP 10 OVERALL SEARCHES

1. Britney Spears
2. WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment)
3. Barack Obama
4. Miley Cyrus
5. RuneScape (online game)
6. Jessica Alba
7. Naruto (anime)
8. Lindsay Lohan
9. Angelina Jolie
10. "American Idol"



NO. 9
ANGELINA
JOLIE



NO. 8
LINDSAY
LOHAN

What would Angie have to do to top LiLo next year?
"She doesn't have to do much more than she's already done, because Lindsay was actually ... on a decline," Chan said. "If you compare Lindsay to herself, she only has herself to blame."

TOP 10 RISING CELEBRITY SEARCHES

1. Miley Cyrus
2. Vanessa Hudgens
3. Chris Brown
4. Jonas Brothers
5. Rihanna
6. Taylor Swift
7. Jamie Lynn Spears
8. Hayden Panettiere
9. Zac Efron
10. Selena Gomez



NO. 3
CHRIS
BROWN



NO. 5
RIHANNA

Why is Rihanna below pal Chris Brown? "Rihanna is below Chris, but it might be because she is more popular. You look up someone or something because you want to know more, and if Rihanna is already out there, that means people already know what's up with her," Chan said.

TOP 10 SEARCHED INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

1. Angelina Jolie
2. Sarah Palin
3. Oprah Winfrey
4. Hillary Clinton
5. Gina Carano
6. Tina Fey
7. Michelle Obama
8. Katie Couric
9. Barbara Walters
10. Dara Torres



NO. 2
SARAH
PALIN



NO. 3
OPRAH
WINFREY

Will Oprah top Palin next year? "I think Oprah will probably be able to, you know, be above Sarah next year," Chan said.

Akon



Rappers delight

Akon, T-Pain, Nelly and Pharell would like to form a supergroup to "bring fun back," Akon tells People magazine. "This is something that we wish we could do. ... Whether it can happen realistically, without politics getting in the middle of it, is the question. If it were up to us, the artists, it would have been done already," he said. In the meantime, Akon has worked with some of pop's biggest stars, including the King of Pop. On working with Michael Jackson for the 25th anniversary edition of "Thriller," Akon said, "It was like he had never put out a record before—he still had that hunger."

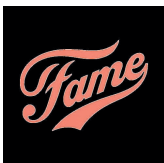
For sale: One uber-home

Leonardo DiCaprio's home is on the market. For nearly \$9 million, the "Revolutionary Road" actor is offering a two-bedroom, two-bathroom home in Malibu, the L.A. Times reports. There's a stairway that leads to a private beach cove below. The main house is a spacious 2,374 square feet. The master bathroom has marble fixtures and a steam shower.

'Fame' redux

Debbie Allen, Charles S. Dutton, Kelsey Grammer, Megan Mullally and Bebe Neuwirth are ready for "Fame."

They've been tapped for the roles of instructors and supervisors in the upcoming "Fame" remake, Variety reports. The remake, which has been set for release Sept. 25, follows dancers, singers, actors and artists from auditions to graduation at the New York City High School of Performing Arts.



Gossip girl

What's the craziest thing Gabrielle Union has read about herself online? "I found out I was dating Derek Jeter. That was so funny—I was so popular with my family and I didn't want to break it to them that it wasn't true. I let them believe that Derek was coming to Easter," the "Cadillac Records" star said, according to the New York Daily News.

QUOTABLE

"I don't like going out. I hate clubs. I hate being around too many people. I love my home and staying in bed and watching 'Dancing With the Stars' or reading a Danielle Steel novel. I'm kind of boring."



Spears

BRITNEY SPEARS

to Glamour magazine for its January issue



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txtable

Celebrity twin

Do you look like a celebrity? Show us! Send your picture along with the name of the celeb who shares your style to **dlhernandez@tribune.com**. For Monday, we have Carrie Ferris. Think she's a ringer for Penelope Cruz? Text **"twin"** and the number of your opinion to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.

1. DEAD ON

2. WAY OFF



Ferris



Cruz

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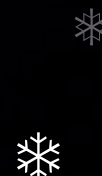
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Put a ring on it?

Attention, Orlando Bloom fans: No matter what you've heard, he is still (technically) available. The movie star's publicist knocked a report out of Australia on Sunday that Bloom had popped the question to his model girlfriend, Miranda Kerr. "The story ... is completely false and misleading," his rep told **people.com**. "Miranda herself has clearly stated she is not engaged. There is nothing else to be said." Way to keep those fangirls' dreams alive, Orlando.

Exit claws

So what does the Sexiest Man Alive do for an encore? Well, if you're Hugh Jackman and your Wolverine "X-Men" spinoff doesn't do so hot on the big screen next spring, the answer is: nothing. "I still love doing the character," Jackman told Web site **moviehole.net**. But the star of the upcoming "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" added, "If it's clear to us on May second or third that [the fan appeal is] gone, then I'll walk away happily. I'm not going to flog a dead horse or try and make movies that people don't really want to go and see." We bet there are a few million fanboys who would disagree.

THE VELVET ROPE

Wedding belle

"Without a Trace" star Roselyn Sanchez has vanished ... from the world of singles. Sanchez and "Days of Our Lives" star Eric Winter wed Saturday in Puerto Rico in front of 250 guests. Sanchez wore a princess-style dress with hand-embroidered pearls and diamonds created by Venezuelan designer Angel Sanchez.

Reheated ... and tasty

It's a safe bet your leftovers aren't as good as Weezer's. The band plans to take a look back and release a number of tracks that never made it onto their albums. The songs reportedly span Weezer's entire career, and the disc tentatively is titled "Odd and Ends," **billboard.com** reports. No release date has been set. Meanwhile, in time for the holidays, the group recorded six Christmas songs, including "Oh Holy Night," that will be available for download for the iPhone game "Tap Tap Revenge."

Room for seconds?

Apparently, the stars are not only blind, but also deaf. Paris Hilton let it be known backstage at the American Music Awards last week that she has put the finishing touches on her second album, according to **ew.com**. The catch? She said she's looking for a record label to release it now that she no longer is with Warner Bros. As for the album, Hilton said, "I wrote all the songs. It's very dance, like Kylie Minogue. I can't get it out of my head already."

THE DIGIT

\$31.7 million

That's the estimated amount Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn's "Four Christmases" earned in theaters over the weekend, making it No. 1 at the box office. "Twilight" sucked in an estimated \$26.4 million, good for third behind "Bolt."



Hugh Jackman as Wolverine